

## ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

August 7, 2002

### TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

#### **TECHNICAL TOPIC**

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATES**

- *Arsenic Issue Paper*
- *Design Considerations for In-situ Soil Treatment*
- *Energy Audit*

#### **FALL 2002 TSP MEETING UPDATE**

#### **SPRING 2003 TSP MEETING UPDATE**

#### **MEMBERSHIP ISSUES**

- *Branch Chiefs Meeting and NARPM Coordination*
- *Standing Committees*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- *Highlights Feedback*
- 

### TECHNICAL TOPIC

Ken Skahn (OSWER, HQ) updated Forum members on the status of the independent government cost estimate (IGCE) guidance, landfill capping guidance, and the joint USACE/EPA website.

EPA Forum members can review the IGCE guidance document at <http://intranet.epa.gov/oerrinet/test/>. URS assisted with the development of the guidance, which, along with a companion toolkit, can be used to prepare government cost estimates for RAC contracts. There are seven basic model SOWs—RI/FS and RI/FS oversight; RD and RD oversight; RA and RA oversight; and 5-year reviews. The preparation of these SOWs is covered in greater detail in the new guidance.

The guidance discusses how cost estimates are used during the negotiation phase and includes a Superfund cost estimating toolbox that is available on the EPA intranet (see link above). The toolbox includes model SOWs, a checklist, and a spreadsheet with ranges of hours for each activity, indirect cost estimates, overhead estimates, and assumptions. Contractors will submit their draft SOWs in the same format as those found on the EPA intranet, allowing the estimates to be compared side-by-side. The contractor can then be asked to explain differences between the EPA estimate and their own. This Superfund toolbox will create a historical cost database that can be built upon and referenced in the future. Chet Janowski (Region 1) said that he used the spreadsheet to complete a RI/FS cost estimate and his results were within 10% of the contractor's estimate. He found the toolkit to be accurate and easy to use, and even got compliments from the contracting officer for the thoroughness of the estimate. The guidance and toolkit are currently being reviewed by RAC POs and COs. Their comments and suggestions, along with any comments received from Forum members, will be used to fine-tune the tool.

Ken also provided an overview of the new guidance for landfill caps that is nearing completion. The nine chapters address: 1) existing policies; 2) requirements for individual components; 3) alternative designs and materials; 4) hydraulic analysis; 5) gas analysis and design; 6) geotechnical analysis and design; 7) lessons learned; 8) performance monitoring; and 9) maintenance and long term issues. The draft chapters can be found at: <ftp://ftp.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/pub/EPA-Cover-Guide/First%20Draft/>.

Comments or suggestions are welcomed and should be addressed to Ken. OSWER is also in the process of developing guidance on landfill gas collection systems.

Lastly, Ken discussed the new joint EPA/USACE website that will be up and running in the next few months. Among the items that will be available at this site are documents and guidance relating to IAGs, cost recovery, value engineering, program execution, 5-year reviews, government-furnished equipment, points of contact, and real estate issues. The website will also provide links to EPA's Superfund website and the USACE website. Rick Hines (USACE) will write an article on the site for NARPM's newsletter.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

#### ***Arsenic Issue Paper***

The final version of the arsenic issue paper has been distributed to Forum members. In keeping with the EF's goal of technology transfer, EF members should distribute the issue paper to RPMs and other interested parties in their Regions. The fact sheet is available at [http://www.epa.gov/tio/tsp/download/arsenic\\_issue\\_paper.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tio/tsp/download/arsenic_issue_paper.pdf).

#### ***Design Considerations for In-situ Soil Treatment***

Gene Keeper (Region 6) has contacted Scott Huling at SPRD-Ada for suggestions on how to proceed with the design considerations for in-situ soil treatment issue paper. Both agreed that they need more information on what the Forum would like to see as a deliverable (e.g., a summary of available information, performance data, cost benefit analysis, etc.). They decided to poll EF members using a questionnaire. This questionnaire will be distributed before the fall 2002 meeting so that the results can be discussed during the business session.

#### ***Energy Audit***

Mike Gill reported that two site visits have been completed. The funding for the energy audit work assignment is limited, so Geotrans will concentrate on finishing the issue paper by the end of the fiscal year and preparing educational/outreach materials for RPMs. These outreach materials will highlight the importance of energy efficiency in the design of remedial systems. TIO will consider additional funding in the future to expand upon the audit checklists, training, and guidance document. Mike asked for some time to give a more complete review of the results of the energy audit at the November meeting.

### **FALL 2002 MEETING UPDATE**

The fall 2002 TSP meeting will be held the week of November 18, 2002, at the Clarion Suites Resort and Convention Center in Pensacola Beach, FL. Because the meeting will begin on Monday morning, Forum members traveling from the West Coast will need to travel on Sunday.

The Federal Facilities Forum, which has the lead in planning this meeting, will take advantage of Pensacola's proximity to the Gulf Breeze lab, Eglin Air Force Base, and USACE's Vicksburg lab, when arranging for session topics and speakers. The Forum will plan a half day of business sessions and a half or full day of technical sessions. Jon Bornholm (Region 4) is looking for someone to present a case study highlighting a site in Region 4, perhaps accompanied by a field trip. Chet will contact ORD in Cincinnati to get ideas for technical presentations. Any EF members with suggestions for session topics should send a note to the co-chairs.

### **SPRING 2003 MEETING UPDATE**

Neil Thompson (Region 10) will convene the spring meeting planning subcommittee in the next few weeks to begin the planning process. Kelly Madalinski (TIO) asked to be included on this subcommittee. Chet will take the lead on organizing the internet seminar for the spring meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP ISSUES**

### ***Branch Chiefs Meeting and NARPM Coordination***

Kelly Madalinski received a mixed response from TIO when he proposed that Walt Kovalick (TIO) send a letter to all Branch Chiefs asking them for assistance in recruiting TSP members. Rich Steimle (TIO) said that volunteers would be much more likely to actively participate in Forum activities than individuals who were appointed by management. TIO may consider sending a representative to the Branch Chiefs meeting in Utah this November to stress the importance of the TSP in facilitating tech transfer and fostering communication among Headquarters, Regions, and labs.

Kelly said that TIO supports the Forum's proposal to network with NARPM, but the Forum would need to take the initiative. Kelly suggested that the EF co-chairs contact the NARPM co-chairs to discuss common issues and begin a dialogue. The EF co-chairs may invite the NARPM co-chairs to the fall meeting.

### ***Standing Committees***

Steve Kinser (Region 7) and Gene Keepper are the chairs of the technical guidance review and technical topics standing committees, respectively.

Steve Kinser has received comments from EF members on the NAPL paper and will forward these comments to the authors.

Gene welcomes any suggestions on how to proceed with identifying potential topics for issue papers or meetings. He will ask the members of the technical topics standing committee (Sharon Hayes, Mike Gill, and Mark Granger) to join him on a teleconference in the next few weeks.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### ***Highlights Feedback***

TIO is looking for feedback on the meeting "highlights" newsletter that was distributed last month. If any Forum members have gotten positive or negative feedback on this summary, please notify Kelly Madalinski. Forum members thought the highlights document was a good summary of the proceedings.

### **Attendees**

Sharon Hayes, Region 1  
Chet Janowski, Region 1  
Elaine Stanley, Region 1  
Bernie Schorle, Region 5  
Gene Keepper, Region 6  
Jim Dunn, Region 8 (HSTL)  
Mike Gill, Region 9 (HSTL)  
Neil Thompson, Region 10  
Kelly Madalinski, TIO  
Ken Skahn, OSWER, HQ

Rick Hines, USACE  
Dave Jaros, USACE  
Ed Mead, USACE  
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC  
Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.